GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:780
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004
KILLING OF DOLPHINS
Oram Shri Jual

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing incidents of killing of Dolphins in some States;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents which came to the notice of the Government during the last three years and current year, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to stop such poaching?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) The population of Dolphins has been under decline throughout its range due to illegal hunting, habitat destruction, over exploitation of the fishes those are utilized by Dolphins, reduced availability of water in the river due to diversion for irrigation and other purposes.

(b) The information on poaching of animals is collected at the level of the State Governments. No specific incident of poaching of Dolphins has been brought to the notice of the Government in past four years.

(c) The subjects taken for promotion, protection and preservation of Dolphins include -

- River Dolphin is included in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby getting the highest protection. Hunting and dealing in the products of dolphin is banned.

- Export-Import Policy of Government of India puts total ban on the export of all species of wild animals and their products.

- The trade of dolphin is regulated by the provisions of Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of flora and fauna (CITES) to which India is a signatory.

- States Governments have notified important habitats of dolphin as National Parks and Sanctuaries. The Government of India provides 100% funding for both recurring and non-recurring expenditure (other than salary of the staff) for such protected areas.